

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-13 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DPW-01

OMB-01 SR-02 ORM-03 DRC-01 /181 W

----- 023498

R 210510Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5928

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 6503

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: PHENG'S COMMENTS ON RLG PLANS TO  
IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT

REF: VIENTIANE 6446

1. AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION OF CRDENTIALS IN LUANG  
PRABANG GAVE US OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW RECENT POLITICAL  
DEVELOPMENTS WITH PHENG PHONGSAVAN WHO ATTENDED CEREMONY  
AS REPRESENTATIVE OF MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. REGARDING FORMATION OF JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT  
AGREEMENT, PHENG ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD AGREED TO HEAD  
THIS COMMISSION PROVIDED LPF NOMINATES SOMEBODY OF  
COMPARABLE RANK. HE ALSO CONFIRMED LIST OF RLG MEMBERS  
OF JCIA AS REPORTED PARA 4 REFTEL. PHENG EXPECTS  
JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENT TO BE ACTIVATED  
BEFORE THE END OF THIS MONTH.

3. REGARDING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVAL FOR AGREEMENTS  
AND RESHUFFLING OF CABINET, PHENG CONFIRMED THAT  
SOUVANNA PLANS TO APPEAR PERSONALLY BEFORE NATIONAL  
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ASSEMBLY AND REQUEST ENDORSEMENT OF FEBRUARY 21 AGREEMENT

AND SEPTEMBER 14 PROTOCOL. HE WOULD ALSO REQUEST SPECIAL POWERS TO RESHUFFLE PRESENT COALITION GOVERNMENT BUT PHENG CONCEDED THAT SOME DEPUTIES ARE RELUCTANT TO GRANT HIM THESE POWERS. ANOTHER PROBLEM IS SOUVANNA'S PLAN TO "RESHUFFLE" THE EXISTING GOVERNMENT WHILE ARTICLE 7 OF FEBRUARY AGREEMENT CALLS FOR FORMATION OF A "NEW" GOVERNMENT. PHENG STRESSED THAT PRIME MINISTER IS DETERMINED TO OBTAIN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVAL BEFORE IT AFZOURNS ON OCTOBER 11 AND REMAINS CONFIDENT THAT THIS DEADLINE WILL BE MET.

4. AS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIOS FOR THE VIENTIANE SIDE, PHENG SAID THAT SOUVANNA IS STILL INCLINED TO ASSIGN SISOUK TO DEFENSE, NGON SANANIKONE TO FINANCE AND PHENG TO INTERIOR AS HE HAD ORIGINALLY PLANNED AND AS CABINET HAD APPROVED AT A PREVIOUS MEETING, EVEN THOUGH GENERAL KOU PRASITH AND SOME OTHER RIGHTISTS HAVE LATELY SUGGESTED TO PRIME MINISTER A DIFFERENT DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIOS TO KEEP NGON SANANIKONE AWAY FROM FINANCE.  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** collinp0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Review Authority:** collinp0  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PFOR, LA  
**To:** STATE  
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